AMENDED VERSION

IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A clinician documentation system for use with a computer processor comprising a computer-readable medium encoding a selection option mechanism augmenting means for eliciting information for medical codes through the analysis of clinician-entered information and predetermined criteria input, said selection option mechanism prompting a user to enter detailed information at the time of patient care delivery to better comply with governmental regulatory coding regiments in order to classify an inpatient stay appropriately to obtain an accurate payment.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1 including storage means for recording inputted predetermined criteria, entered information and conclusions thereof into a database.

3. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1 wherein said augmenting means selection option mechanism is a software program.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 4 1, wherein said augmenting means selection option mechanism includes at least one of data addition means for adding information and data substituting means for substituting information.

6. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 4 1, wherein said augmenting means selection option mechanism includes an elicitation database for intelligently suggesting more information for medical codes,

alternative conclusions, and predetermined criteria to support the conclusions.

7. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 6, wherein said ~~augmenting means~~ selection option mechanism includes eliciting conclusions selected from the group consisting of medical payment codes, billing codes, treatment codes, and service codes.

8. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 4 1, wherein said ~~augmenting means~~ selection option mechanism includes analysis of predetermined criteria input wherein the criteria includes phrases, words, numbers and symbols relating to the conclusions.

9. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 utilized on a device selected from the group consisting of hand-held devices, portable computers, desktop computers, wireless devices, web-based technology systems, touch screen devices, typing devices, and electronic devices.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said system further includes accuracy confirming means for confirming the accuracy of previously entered information.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 1 including searching means for locating words and phrases.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 1 including linking means for linking to a listing and description of predetermined criteria.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 1 including free-text entry means for entering text into said system.

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14. (Original)   The system according to claim 1 including security means for restricting access to said system.

15. (Currently amended) A software program for use with a computer processor for providing information for medical codes, said program comprising a computer-readable medium encoding a selection option mechanism augmenting means for eliciting information for medical codes through analysis of clinician-entered information and predetermined criteria input, said selection option mechanism prompting a user to enter detailed information at the time of patient care delivery to better comply with governmental regulatory coding regiments in order to classify an inpatient stay appropriately to obtain an accurate payment.

16. (Previously presented) The software program according to claim 15, being accessible through communication systems selected from the group consisting of the Internet, Intranet, Extranet, and electronically.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) The software program according to claim 17 16, wherein said augmenting means selection option mechanism includes at least one of data addition means for adding information and data substituting means for substituting information.

19. (Currently amended) The software program according to claim 17 16, wherein said augmenting means selection option mechanism includes an elicitation data base for intelligently suggesting at least one of more accurate conclusions, alternative conclusions, and needed criteria to support the conclusions.

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20. (Currently amended) The software program according to claim ~~17~~ 16, wherein said ~~augmenting means~~ selection option mechanism includes eliciting conclusions selected from the group consisting of medical payment codes, billing codes, treatment codes, and service codes.

21. (Currently amended) The software program according to claim ~~17~~ 16, wherein said ~~augmenting means~~ selection option mechanism includes analysis of predetermined criteria input wherein the criteria includes phrases, words, numbers and symbols relating to the conclusions.

22. (Original) The software program according to claim 15, wherein said software further includes accuracy confirming means for confirming the accuracy of previously entered information.

23. (Original) The software program according to claim 15, wherein said software further includes security means for restricting access to said software.

24. (Original) The software program according to claim 15 including searching means for locating words and phrases.

25. (Original) The software program according to claim 15 including linking means for linking to a listing and description of predetermined criteria.

26. (Original) The software program according to claim 15 including free-text entry means for entering text into said system.

Claims 27-50. (Cancelled)

51.   (Currently Amended) A clinician documentation method for use with a computer processor comprising the steps of using a selection option mechanism encoded on a computer-readable medium to ~~eliciting~~ information

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for medical codes through the analysis of clinician-entered information and predetermined criteria input and subsequent augmenting of the entered information therein, said selection option mechanism prompting a user to enter detailed information at the time of patient care delivery to better comply with governmental regulatory coding regiments in order to classify an inpatient stay appropriately to obtain an accurate payment.